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DRAFTED BY: AF/C: MEGRANDFIELD

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KAMPALA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 136226

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: AMGT RW

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL - INFORMAL

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE MAY 20 SITREP ON RWANDA.

BEGIN TEXT.

SITUATION ON THE GROUND

(U) FIGHTING IN KIGALI IS DESCRIBED AS "SOME OF THE MOST INTENSE CLASHES THE CAPITAL HAS SUFFERED SO FAR". THE FIERCEST BATTLES ARE AT THE KANOMBE MILITARY BARRACKS JUST EAST OF THE AIRPORT AND AT THE GENDARME HEADQUARTERS

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CLOSER TO THE CENTER OF TOWN. UN FORCE COMMANDER DALLAIRE SAID THAT IF THE GOVERNMENT FORCES DID NOT AGREE TODAY TO TURN OVER THE AIRPORT TO THE UN, HE WOULD CONSIDER USING THE AIRSTRIP NEAR RUHENGERI IN NORTHERN RWANDA TO BRING IN MORE MEN AND SUPPLIES. RUHENGERI ITSELF, HOWEVER, IS UNDER HEAVY ATTACK FROM THE REBELS TO THE EAST. (REUTERS)

DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES

(U) THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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(UNHRC) ON RWANDA WILL CONVENE ON MAY 24 IN GENEVA. AMBASSADOR TO RWANDA DAVID RAWSON WILL ACCOMPANY AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE GERALDINE FERRARO TO REPRESENT THE U.S. AT THE UNHRC. THE REGIONAL SUMMIT ON RWANDA, HOSTED BY THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT AND ATTENDED BY REGIONAL HEADS OF STATE AND REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH SIDES IN THE RWANDAN CONFLICT, IS NOW TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THE SAME DAY IN ARUSHA. (USMISSION GENEVA 4607)

(U) NO SIGNIFICANT NEW TROOP CONTRIBUTIONS WERE MADE AT THE RWANDA TROOP CONTRIBUTING MEETING HELD AT THE UN ON MAY 19. GHANA IS ONE OF THE FEW COUNTRIES THAT HAS PUBLICLY AGREED TO SEND IN TROOPS; MOST OTHER COUNTRIES CONSIDERING THE UN REQUEST ARE NON-COMMITAL. (ACCRA 4242/USUN 2141)

(C) USUN HAS ASKED THAT THE USG SEND A SMALL TEAM TO NEW YORK NEXT WEEK TO WORK WITH THE UN ON ITS CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE EXPANDED UNAMIR FORCE. (USUN 2141)

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(C) THE QUAI SAID THAT SINCE THE ARUSHA ACCORDS, FRANCE HAS NOT ISSUED ANY NEW PERMITS FOR THE EXPORT OF ARMS TO RWANDA AND NO EXPORT AUTHORIZATIONS HAVE BEEN GRANTED UNDER EXISTING PERMITS. [REDACTED]

1.4(B)

ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT FRENCH ARMS DEALERS ARE STILL HOLDING TALKS WITH THE GOR ON POSSIBLE MILITARY SALES.

[REDACTED] ADDED THAT DESPITE GOF REQUESTS TO MOBUTU TO STOP WEAPONS FLOWS TO RWANDA, LARGE ARMS SHIPMENTS WERE STILL BEING SMUGGLED INTO RWANDA THROUGH GOMA. (PARIS 13964)

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(C) REPORTS OF ARMS SHIPMENTS FOR THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT FORCES FROM BOTH ZAIRIAN AND EGYPTIAN SOURCES ROUTED THROUGH GOMA, ZAIRE CONTINUE. (DIA WASHDC)

(C) THE SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SAID SOUTH AFRICA WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN A PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN RWANDA. (PRETORIA 7006 AND 7070)

(LOU) THE UN IS TRANSFERRING SGSR BOOH BOOH OUT OF RWANDA. HE WILL APPARENTLY RETAIN HIS POSITION AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO RWANDA BUT WILL BE BASED IN NAIROBI AND WOULD DEAL PRIMARILY WITH REGIONAL PLAYERS

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INVOLVED IN THE RWANDA CRISIS. (USUN TELCON)

HUMANITARIAN ISSUES

(C) THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, MRS. OGATA, MET WITH AMBASSADOR ALERIGHT ON MAY 17 AND EMPHASIZED THE DIFFICULTY IN PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN RWANDA

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WHILE THE VIOLENCE CONTINUES. MRS. OGATA SAID THAT IF A HUMANITARIAN EFFORT IN RWANDA IS ORGANIZED TO FAN OUT FROM KIGALI, IT WOULD HAVE TO HAVE A MAJOR MILITARY COMPONENT, AND THAT IT MAY BE NECESSARY FOR UN MILITARY FORCES TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DISTRIBUTION OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE. (USUN 2116)

REPORTS OF RPF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS CONTINUE. REFUGEES ARRIVING IN TANZANIA CLAIM THAT ONE THOUSAND PEOPLE WERE KILLED BY THE RPF ON THE EVENING OF MAY 16 IN THE AREA NORTH OF AKAGERA PARK. REFUGEES ALSO REPORT THAT 20,000 RWANDANS ARE TRAPPED IN RWANDA, UNABLE TO PAY THE MONEY LOCAL TANZANIANS ARE CHARGING THEM TO CROSS THE KAGERA RIVER. THERE ARE ADDITIONAL REPORTS OF TANZANIANS EXTORTING ANIMALS AND PROPERTY FROM REFUGEES IN BOTH THE NGARA AND KARAGWE DISTRICTS. (DAR ES SALAAM 3185)

(U) DOD CONTINUES TO PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT ASSISTANCE TO UNHCR AND OTHER AGENCIES TO TRANSPORT FOOD AND RELIEF SUPPLIES TO TANZANIA AND BURUNDI FOR RWANDAN REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS. (VARIOUS CABLES/MEMOS)

END TEXT OF SITREP.

2. BUJUMBURA MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

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